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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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EMPLOYEES' SUGGESTION SAVES DUCK STAMP FUNDS

Estimated annual savings of \$40,000 in Federal duck stamp funds are expected to result from a suggestion made by two members of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Washington staff, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

The saving will be realized by shipping the duck stamps to about 16,500 post offices throughout the country by ordinary mail rather than by registered mail as has been the practice since 1934, Secretary McKay said.

Registered mail will be used in the future only for shipments to 16 regional distribution points. During fiscal year 1955, the cost of distributing the duck stamps was approximately \$162,000, the Secretary noted. The overall cost of printing, distributing, selling and accounting for the duck stamps will be reduced from an established cost of 7.443 cents per stamp during fiscal year 1955 to an estimated 4.987 cents per stamp during fiscal year 1956.

The Department of the Interior Incentive Awards Committee has approved \$250 cash awards to each of the two Fish and Wildlife Service employees in recognition of the part they played in improving the Federal service through this suggestion. They are Alva F. Rollins of 3516 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, Va., Chief of the Section of Regulations and Permits, Branch of Game Management; and James A. Hickey of 10501 Deakins Hall Drive, Hyattsville, Md., Fiscal Officer, Branch of Finance and Procurement.

In urging that future shipments be made by regular mail, Rollins and Hickey pointed out that the risk of loss in shipment is very slight. In the past, distribution of the stamps has involved about 95,000 shipments annually, with a 60 cents per shipment fixed charge for registration.

The Post Office Department handles production, distribution and sale of the duck stamps and makes charges for these services against the Migratory Bird Conservation Act fund administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

After careful review, the Post Office Department agreed to adopt the Interior Department employees' suggestion. As a further result, the Post Office Department at the same time adopted a revised system to reduce substantially the required number of annual mailings.

The reduction in the amount due the Post Office Department will enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to strengthen its law enforcement program by making available for enforcement operations a greater portion of the duck stamp revenues

earmarked by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act for production of the stamps, administration of the Act, and law enforcement.

Commenting upon the awards, Secretary McKay declared that the Department of the Interior's expanded and revitalized Incentive Awards Program which became effective November 30, 1954, "offers a real opportunity for promoting increased efficiency and superior accomplishment. The new program, which encourages good suggestions, is a potentially important contributor to individual and group morale."

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